



City of Rockville FY 2003 Budget In Brief

*The Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Budget supports the five goals and 22 objectives announced by the Mayor and Council on March 25. The five goals are: **Vibrant Town Center, Better Mobility, Strengthened Neighborhoods, Superior City Services and Community Identity and Pride.** (See the main section of Rockville Reports for more information on how the proposed budget supports the Mayor and Council goals.)*

FY 2003 Budget Highlights

On Monday, April 8, City Manager Mark Pentz presented the proposed FY 2003 Budget to the Mayor and Council.

“This budget ensures the City’s resources are spent wisely, making it possible for Rockville to continue delivering superior services and provide excellent facilities for residents,” said Pentz. “It is grounded in the guiding principles recently set by the Mayor and Council to direct policy and decision making. Community input will be a vital part of the budget process and we look forward to hearing from residents as the process gets underway.”

Although governments are beginning to see the effects of the slowdown in the economy, the City of Rockville remains firmly positioned to deliver superior services at current levels and to invest in capital improvements throughout the City without a tax increase. Both the operating and capital budgets are planned conservatively and can withstand a slowing of the economy.

Among the highlights of the proposed FY 2003 budget and CIP are no property tax increase and only modest utility rate increases. Public hearings on the budget will be held on Monday, April 29, and Monday, May 6, at City Hall. The public is urged to come and give their input. The Mayor and Council will hold numerous public work sessions, and the FY 2003 budget and CIP are scheduled to be adopted by the Mayor and Council on Monday, June 10. ■



The proposed FY 2003 CIP includes \$2.1 million in additional funding over the past fiscal year for transportation and pedestrian safety initiatives, such as school access and street light improvements. Improving mobility is one of the main goals outlined by the Mayor and Council. For a complete list of goals and supporting budget items, see inside.

FY 2003 Budget Schedule

The budget process is when new projects are introduced and choices are made on funding and scheduling. In addition, recommendations for adjustments to projects that are included in the six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) are made at this time.

Citizen input is a crucial component for making the budget process successful. Citizens and neighborhoods are urged to play an active role in Rockville’s priority setting.

Copies of the FY 2003 Budget are available at City Hall, Rockville Regional Library and Twinbrook Library. A summary is available online at www.ci.rockville.md.us

Two public hearings on the budget will be held at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue. Any citizen can come to City Hall and comment on the budget at this time. In addition, the Mayor and Council will hold numerous public work sessions, where citizens are invited to attend.

The FY 2003 Budget Schedule is:

- **Monday, April 29** - Budget Public Hearing, 7:30 p.m.
- **Monday, May 6** - Budget Public Hearing, 7:30 p.m.
- **Monday, May 13** - Budget Work Session, following 7:30 p.m. General Session
- **Monday, May 20** - Budget Work Session, 7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 28** - Budget Work Session (if needed), following 7:30 p.m. General Session

“Community input will be a vital part of the budget process.”

– Mark Pentz, City Manager

Making ‘Cents’ of the City’s Dollar



Illustrates how, by department, approximately \$1 of taxpayers’ money is allocated.

Total Budget

- **The FY 2003 operating budget is \$65,470,649, an increase of 2.3 percent over the revised FY 2002 budget, net of the appropriated fund balance in the General Fund.**
- **The General Fund budget of \$42,286,157 is 4 percent higher than the revised FY 2002 budget, also net of the appropriated fund balance in the General Fund.**
- **General Fund revenues in FY 2003 will exceed the revenue in the revised FY 2002 budget by \$1.6 million.** The major portion of this revenue growth is a projected increase in real property tax revenue of \$1.3 million, or 8 percent of the FY 2002 amount. Revenue from income taxes is budgeted to increase by \$285,000 or 5 percent of the FY 2002 revised amount. However, the income tax revenue estimated for FY 2003 is below the amount actually received in FY 2001.
- **The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) incorporates \$104,804,782 of community enhancements to be made over the next six years.** In addition, open projects from prior years in the amount of \$44,596,061 will be included in the FY 2003 CIP appropriation.
- **The Capital Projects Fund will issue bonds in the amount of \$7,490,000 to finance projects.** The Water Utility Fund will receive \$175,000 in additional loan funds from the Maryland Department of the Environment for capital projects and the Sewer Fund will issue bonds in the amount of \$5,000,000 to finance improvements at the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Refuse Fund will issue bonds in the amount of \$284,000 to purchase refuse vehicles.
- **The average bill for City services for the Rockville homeowner will be \$45.87 higher than in FY 2002, an overall increase of 3.62 percent.** (See chart comparing costs for services from FY 2002 to FY 2003 inside.)
- The **property tax rate** remains unchanged at \$.322.
- The **water rate** will increase \$.07 per thousand gallons, raising the rate to \$1.92 per thousand gallons. Rates are currently set below the amount needed to cover all operating and debt service costs and to contribute to major capital costs. Rockville continues to produce excellent quality water at a rate significantly below the rate of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).
- The **sewer rate** will increase by \$0.13 per thousand gallons, raising the rate to \$3.38 per thousand gallons. This revenue will support the City’s share of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority’s capital improvements program at the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant. Even with the increase, the City’s rate remains below the WSSC rate.
- The **refuse charge** will increase by \$1.50 per month, raising the fee to \$23.75 per month. This increase in the monthly fee is necessary to maintain desired service levels. Because of an accumulated balance in the Refuse Fund, rates are currently set at a level below the amount needed to cover all operating and debt service costs. As a result, successive annual rate increases will be needed for the next few years to bring the rate up to the required level. ■

The Five Goals of the Mayor & Council:

Vibrant Town Center TC

The Mayor and Council's priority policy initiative is to redevelop Town Center as the focal point and gathering place for the community.

Adopted after an extensive public participation process, the new Town Center Master Plan calls for an active, mixed-use development through a combination of retail, office, restaurant, entertainment, civic and residential uses.

A pedestrian environment will be created with wider sidewalks, attractive streetscape designs, and improved access to Metro. The Mayor and Council envision the Town Center as an area considered by residents to be the heart of the community. The budget supports community activities that create a vibrant Town Center including:

- Hometown Holidays, annual Memorial Weekend activities
- The Farmers' Market
- The Spirit of Rockville, beginning in FY 2003
- Out to Lunch Wednesdays, featuring music entertainment in Town Center

The FY 2003-FY 2008 CIP includes \$12.4 million for Town Center redevelopment. In addition, the City will aggressively pursue the county, state and federal financial assistance that will be needed to realize the Mayor and Council's vision of revitalizing Town Center.

The FY 2003 budget includes funding for professional services needed to complete the negotiation of a general development agreement with Federal Realty Investment Trust that will initiate the next phase of Town Center redevelopment. Rockville will work closely with Montgomery County staff on the location, design and construction of the new Rockville Regional Library, as well as on the structure of a parking district to be operated by either the City or the county.

The proposed FY 2003 budget continues the City's financial support for the Greater Rockville Partnership, including a Town Center Manager.

The CIP also includes \$4 million for Cabin John Sanitary Sewer Improvements needed to support redevelopment of the Town Center.



The Town Center will be a vibrant mix of retail, office, restaurant, entertainment, civic and residential spaces, serving as a community gathering place to enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

Better Mobility

To improve mobility within Rockville, the Mayor and Council envision a more pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented community, where bicycle and pedestrian routes link neighborhoods, and residents have increased access to public transportation. The proposed FY 2003-FY 2008 CIP includes \$6.6 million to implement the Mayor and Council's goal to improve mobility that includes:

- ADA pedestrian modifications
- Bus stop shelters and neighborhood traffic control
- School access improvements and sidewalk links
- Street light and street safety improvements
- Traffic demand management

To improve mobility in Rockville, the proposed budget also includes \$25,000 for consultant services to ensure that best practices are being utilized to develop an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance. An additional \$48,000 has been proposed for a Transportation Planner position to review pedestrian and bike plans and to perform transportation demand management functions. A traffic safety study to evaluate cut-through traffic in the West End will be expanded citywide as a tool to examine this issue in conjunction with neighborhood associations and the neighborhood planning process.

A Federal Highway Administration grant of \$234,000 is being used to assess the areas in Rockville that are not being served adequately by public transportation. The City plans to apply for state grant funding to initiate a pilot shuttle program to the Town Center and Rockville Metro.



The six-year CIP includes funding to implement the City's Bikeway Master Plan. This plan is a road map to construct a bikeway system around and through the City of Rockville.

Superior City Services

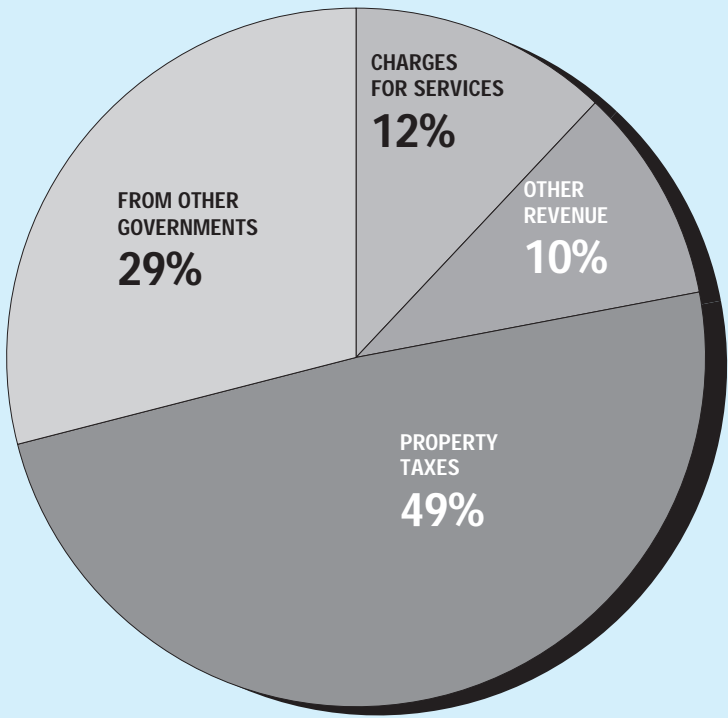
To maintain premium levels of services, Rockville must continue to retain a high quality work force, use creative and collaborative problem-solving techniques and fully utilize technology to make City services more accessible to the public. Among the items in the proposed FY 2003 budget to support superior city services are:

- Funding for e-government initiatives such as developing an online system for submitting building permits, animal license applications and paying parking tickets via the Internet. Staff will begin laying the framework to implement online utility payments in FY 2004.
- In addition, \$150,000 has been budgeted for a complete redesign of the City's Web site to make public access to information more user friendly.
- Adequate work space, as well as areas for community meetings and gatherings, remains a critical issue in City Hall. To enable City staff to better serve the public, \$1.1 million has been proposed in the CIP to make short-term improvements to the existing City Hall to alleviate overcrowding and \$8.6 million has been proposed in the out years to make long-term improvements to the Gude Drive Maintenance Facility.
- The FY 2003-FY 2008 CIP proposes \$8,774,00 for the construction of the 28-acre King Farm Park, the renovation of the Rockcrest Recreation Center, the expansion of the Senior Center, the construction of a new community center at Fallsgrove, and the renovation of the Pumphouse meeting room. (See details about CIP projects on Page 4 of this insert).
- \$75,000 has been proposed to develop a program of organizational and management audits, ranging from continuous improvement programs to full-scale audits.
- To support the Mayor and Council's action item to evaluate overall police services, a one-time allocation of \$115,000 has been set aside for consulting services to assess alternative levels of police services.
- Other proposed budget items to support superior City services include: \$18,000 to keep summer playground employees' salaries competitive in the market place, \$12,000 for software upgrades to the Personnel Department's Applicant Tracking Program and \$10,700 for Nextel phones for City Police.



The FY 2003-FY 2008 CIP proposes funding for a 28-acre park at the King Farm development. The CIP also continues funding for Rockville's Art in Public Places program. Pictured above is the IN-2-NRG public art sculpture located in King Farm. The CIP proposes expenditures over the next six years to build and enhance the superior facilities enjoyed by Rockville residents.

FY 2003 Revenue



Strengthened Neighborhoods

The Mayor and Council are committed to empowering neighborhoods, responding to their needs and fostering strong connections between neighborhoods in Rockville. The proposed FY 2003 budget supports this goal. Funding is included for the following items:

- An inter-departmental project team will begin work on a strategy for addressing neighborhood redevelopment.
- \$5,000 to develop communication materials for Lincoln Park and East Rockville neighborhood plans.
- An increase of \$15,302 to combine two part-time positions to one full-time position dedicated to managing requests such as City support for neighborhood activities.
- Two vehicles for the Neighborhood and Community Services staff, which spend a significant portion of their time visiting neighborhoods and attending community meetings.
- \$552,417 funding increase over the prior year for neighborhood parks, playgrounds, shelters and infrastructure improvements, such as the new Mary Trumbo Park.
- An additional \$1,016,000 in funding for asphalt pavement and concrete maintenance programs to preserve the quality of neighborhood streets, bringing the total funding for these critical infrastructure items to \$10,155,000 for FY 2003 - FY 2008.



To preserve the quality of Rockville’s neighborhood streets, the CIP increases funding for asphalt pavement rehabilitation and concrete maintenance. The decades-old preventative maintenance process, pictured above, deserves the credit for keeping local streets smooth year-round.

Rockville Community Identity and Pride

Rockville’s identity and pride are defined, in part, by active and engaged citizens who have a voice in shaping the future of their community. An important component for measuring the City’s success will be ensuring that all residents feel connected and have opportunities to participate and contribute to make Rockville a special place to live. Numerous budget items have been proposed to support community identity and pride, including:

- \$15,000 to develop and print marketing materials for the Croydon Creek Nature Center, which celebrated its grand opening on Earth Day, April 21.
- \$4,211 to provide the City Clerk’s office with temporary staff necessary to assist in reviewing the City’s campaign policies, boards and commissions, and City Charter, as requested by the Mayor and Council.
- As a strategy for strengthening relationships between neighborhoods and City Hall, it is proposed that the Neighborhood Resources Program implement semi-annual neighborhood conferences, at an estimated cost of \$3,000.
- \$5,000 increase to funding for Peerless Rockville.
- \$15,000 to assist a newly-formed volunteer group, the Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc., which cares for and maintains the Rockville Cemetery.
- The proposed FY 2003-FY 2008 CIP includes \$1.4 million for Senior Center improvements, \$1.7 million for Swim Center enhancements, \$55,000 for Skate Park additions, \$283,112 for Art in Public Places, \$175,000 for parks beautification and \$60,000 to landscape medians.



The proposed FY 2003-FY 2008 CIP includes funding for improvements at the Rockville Senior Center, which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Center is a popular gathering place for Rockville’s senior citizen community and offers countless recreation programs and health services throughout the year.

Workforce Issues

In an effort to encourage employees to use alternative transportation and thereby reduce traffic congestion on area roads and address the parking shortage at City Hall, the City implemented the Parc-It Program. Through the program, employees who are willing to relinquish their parking pass and use public or alternative transportation are eligible to receive \$65 per month on a pre-tax basis toward the purchase of transit passes.

The FY 2003 budget recommends additional funding of \$15,000 to increase participation in the program from 30 employees to 36, in addition to raising the subsidy from \$65 to \$70 per month.

The proposed budget funds an increase in the health benefit premium at an ongoing cost of \$23,882 to extend health coverage to same-sex domestic partners. A similar benefit is being offered by surrounding jurisdictions. The proposed budget also includes an additional \$160,000 for an estimated increase in health care costs beginning in January 2003.

The proposed budget holds firm on existing staffing levels, except when a position is needed to directly support a Mayor and Council goal. Funding of \$156,858 is proposed for new positions in FY 2003, including:

- A Transportation Planner to review pedestrian/bike plans and perform Transportation Demand Management functions: \$48,009
- Pay increases for temporary playground staff and a new Childcare Program Assistant III, both to provide valuable services for families and their children: \$33,545
- Additional funding to provide a dedicated position for neighborhood and community event requests and for a new Box Office Manager at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre: \$52,310
- Temporary personnel for the City Clerk’s Office to support efforts to review the City’s campaign policies, boards and commissions duties, and the City’s charter: \$4,211
- Increase the part-time Video Technician to full-time to provide additional programming on The Rockville Channel: \$18,783



COMMUNITY SPIRIT: The Mayor and Council’s priority policy initiative is to redevelop the Town Center as the focal point and gathering place for the community. The new Town Center Master Plan calls for an active, mixed-use development through a combination of office, retail, restaurant, entertainment, civic and residential uses. Events such as a twice-weekly Farmers’ Market and the annual Memorial Day Parade (both pictured above) make Rockville a friendly interactive community with a small town feeling. The budget supports events that involve residents in the community and bring them to the heart of Town Center.

Comparison of Costs FY 2002 to FY 2003

PROPERTY TAX RATE *unchanged*

- FY 2002 = \$.322
- FY 2003 = \$.322

WATER RATE *7 cents increase*

- FY 2002 = \$1.85 per thousand gallons
- FY 2003 = \$1.92 per thousand gallons

SEWER RATE *13 cents increase*

- FY 2002 = \$3.25 per thousand gallons
- FY 2003 = \$3.38 per thousand gallons

REFUSE *\$1.50 per month increase*

- FY 2002 = \$328 per year
- FY 2003 = \$350 per year



FY 2003- FY 2008 Capital Improvement Projects

The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is a projection of the City’s capital investment plan over a six-year period. Each year, the CIP is reviewed in the context of the ongoing City, county, state and federal planning programs and policies as well as the City’s Master Plan.

The map pictured below depicts Rockville divided into six geographical areas. The following projects, organized by area, are included in the FY 2003-FY 2008 CIP. The projects listed in **bold** indicate new projects. The projects listed in *italics* indicate projects that are scheduled to be completed in FY03.

For more information on any projects included in the proposed FY 2003-FY 2008 CIP call Bo Ferguson, City of Rockville Project Implementation Co-ordinator, at 301-315-6507.

NOTE: The projects listed in **bold** indicate new projects. The projects listed in *italics* indicate projects that are scheduled to be completed in FY03.

Area 1

Environment

- Beall Avenue / Park Road: water main replacement
- Lincoln Park: drainage improvements
- Lincoln Park: sump pump program
- North Horners Lane: water main work
- Northeast Park: stormwater management (SWM) retrofit
- RedGate Golf Course: SWM retrofit
- Sanitary sewer rehabilitation
- Southlawn Lane: water main work

Recreation and Parks

- Mary Trumbo Park: design and construction**
- Outdoor security lighting
- Park pedestrian bridge replacements
- Park shelter improvements
- Pumphouse facility improvements**
- Recreation Center: improvements
- RedGate Golf Course: improvements and enhancements

Transportation

- Avery Road: reconstruction
- Park Road / Stonestreet Avenue: traffic control
- Southlawn Lane West
- Southlawn Lane: Dover connector road
- Southlawn Lane: Lofstrand Lane to Gude Drive

Area 2

Environment

- Croydon Creek Restoration**
- Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

Recreation and Parks

- Croydon Creek Nature Center
- F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall: Renovations and Improvements

- Glenview Mansion: Master Plan Improvements
- Outdoor Security Lighting
- Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacements
- Twinbrook: Street Tree Replacement

Transportation

- Baltimore Road / Maryland Route 28, Broadwood
- Sidewalk Links II: Emphasis on pedestrian areas, school access and transit stops

Area 3

Environment

- Alsace Lane: stream improvements
- Chapman Avenue: water main work*
- Lewis Avenue: water main work
- Rock Creek: wastewater facilities
- Rockcrest: stream improvements

Recreation and Parks

- Athletic court system improvements
- Recreation center improvements
- Rockcrest Recreation Center: design and construct improvements**
- Twinbrook: street tree replacements

Transportation

- ADA pedestrian modifications

Area 4

Environment

- Cabin John Sewer phase I: upgrade to existing trunk sewer*
- Cabin John Sewer phase II: upgrade to existing trunk sewer
- Cabin John Sewer phase III: upgrade to existing trunk sewer**
- Derbyshire: SWM improvements
- Drainage improvements
- Jefferson Street: water main replacement*
- Mount Vernon: SWM retrofit*
- North Farm: SWM retrofit
- Sanitary sewer rehabilitation
- Tower Oaks: wetland marsh**
- Water storage tank: cathodic protection

Recreation and Parks

- Ballfield improvements
- Dawson Farm Park improvements*
- Montrose Community Center improvements
- Outdoor security lighting
- Park pedestrian bridge
- Recreation center improvements

Transportation

- Detention center access
- Fleet Street: extension, phase III*
- Ritchie Parkway*
- Sidewalk links II: emphasis on pedestrian areas, school access and transit stops

Area 5

Environment

- Frost Stream restoration
- Horizon Hills Park: SWM replacement

- Water tank: cathodic protection
- Woottons Mill Park middle: stream valley erosion repairs
- Woottons Mill Park upper: stream valley erosion repairs

Transportation

- Street safety improvements

Area 6

Environment

- Adclare Road: water main replacement
- Beall Avenue / Park Road: water main replacement
- Cabin John Sewer Phase IV: upgrade to existing trunk sewer
- Carnation Drive / I-270: SWM replacement
- College Gardens Park: SWM replacement
- Fallsgrove: water booster
- Sanitary sewer rehabilitation
- Water storage tank: cathodic protection***
- Watts Branch upper: stream valley erosion repairs
- Welsh Park: SWM replacement
- Woodley Gardens: stream valley erosion repairs
- General Government
- City Hall expansion
- City Hall improvements
- Town Center decorations
- Town Center light/signals

- Town Center meters*
- Town Center planning
- Town Center redevelopment

Recreation and Parks

- Ballfield improvements
- Beall-Dawson Park Master Plan*
- Contribution for a community gym at a Rockville elementary school
- Fallsgrove / Thomas Farm: community recreation center
- Fallsgrove: park / school site
- King Farm: 28-Acre park project**
- King Farm: “Farmstead” park site*
- Outdoor security lighting
- Senior Center: West Gude Drive access
- Senior Center Master Plan
- Skate Park improvements

Transportation

- Great Falls Road improvements
- Maryland Avenue: extension between Middle Lane and Beall Avenue
- Sidewalk links II: emphasis on pedestrian areas, school access and transit stops
- Street safety improvements
- Underground relocation of utility lines along Wood Lane
- Van Buren Street: street drainage and pavement improvements
- West End Improvements: installation or upgrade of sidewalks throughout the Historic District

